

**Testimony of Earl Anthony Wayne to be
Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and
Business Affairs
Before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, it is an honor to appear before you as the President's nominee for the position of Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business affairs. I deeply appreciate the support of Secretary of State Albright for my nomination.

I have been a career member of the Foreign Service since 1975. I have had the honor of serving this great nation in a variety of positions, including as a China analyst, an officer at our embassies in Morocco and France, a special assistant to two Secretaries of State, and a director in our counter-terrorism office. I also enjoyed two broadening assignments: a year of public management training at Harvard University and two years as a correspondent for The Christian Science Monitor.

In the last decade, I worked at the National Security Council as Director for Western Europe and served for three years as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Mission to the European Communities, where I had the privilege of working for Stuart Eizenstat. In Brussels, I worked on a wide range of economic issues from agricultural trade to electronic commerce, audiovisual services and biotechnology. During this period, we launched the New Transatlantic Agenda for managing U.S.-EU relations, established a very successful private-public exchange: the Transatlantic Business Dialogue, and the GATT Round was completed.

Since 1996, I have served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Europe. For the first two years, my responsibilities included overseeing U.S.-Canada relations, which allowed me to appreciate the intensity of commercial relations across our northern border. U.S.-EU relations continue to be central to my portfolio. Over the last several

years, I have worked on initiatives to resolve differences with the Europeans on a range of trade and non-trade issues, as well as build cooperation through, for example, the first ever U.S.-EU Mutual Recognition Agreements, and on such issues as Southeast Europe, European Defense and Security Identify, and non-proliferation.

Let me now take a moment to outline some of the priorities I would intend to pursue if you and your colleagues confirm me as Assistant Secretary of State. First, I take the responsibility of promoting U.S. business and agricultural interests very seriously. I am committed to helping American business and farmers receive fair treatment in the international marketplace. This will be one of my top priorities.

Second, continued expansion of global trade and investment is very important for America's prosperity. Keeping world markets open and tearing down barriers to U.S. exports, as we are doing with

China, are critical priorities. I will work hard to advance these goals.

Third, ensuring a sustained recovery from the global financial crisis in 1997 is also a priority. We must draw lessons from that crisis to improve our response capabilities and enhance the ability of developing countries to weather such shocks.

Fourth, I look forward to working within the Administration and with Congress to ensure a common sense, balanced approach to sanctions policy, which weighs the costs and benefits of potential measures and which provides the flexibility needed for sanctions to be an effective tool of foreign policy.

Fifth, we can continue to build integrity into the international economic system. Ratification and effective implementation of the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention is one of our top priorities, for example.

Sixth, liberalization of the world's transportation and communication sectors is needed to help realize the potential unleashed by the information society revolution. The 43 "open skies" aviation agreements concluded in recent years have benefited U.S. airlines, communities, the traveling public and exporters, for example. I will work to expand on this record.

Mr. Chairman, our economy and our prosperity are increasingly intertwined with the rest of the world. The role of the State Department and our embassies is increasingly important as we seek to understand and shape these developments and to promote America's interests. It will be a great honor to work with the men and women of the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs in this effort.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for this opportunity to appear before this Committee. I look forward to your questions. With your approval, I hope to

continue to work with you and members of the
Committee on these and other important issues.